



## THE ADVISOR

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**The faces of Iraqi soldiers and police have been altered to protect their identities.**

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**ON THE COVER**

**Iraqi officers train at the Iraqi Armed Forces Flight Surgeon course at New Al-Muthanna Jan. 18**

Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

# Petraeus supports troop increase in confirmation

**By U.S. Army Sgt. Sara Wood**  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — President Bush's pick for command of Multi-National Force – Iraq today supported the new strategy for Iraq Jan. 24, emphasizing that additional U.S. forces are essential in accomplishing the mission.

"If we are to carry out the Multi-National Force – Iraq mission in accordance with the new strategy, the additional forces that have been directed to move to Iraq will be essential, as will greatly increased support by our government's other agencies, additional resources for reconstruction and economic initiatives, and a number of other actions critical to what must be a broad, comprehensive, multifaceted approach to the challenges in Iraq," Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus said at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Petraeus was nominated Jan. 17 to be promoted to general and take over command of MNF-I from Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., who has been nominated to become the Army's chief of staff.

The new strategy for Iraq shifts the U.S. focus in Iraq to securing the population and creating secure conditions to enable the Iraqi government, Petraeus said. Solving security problems will not be the ultimate solution for Iraq, he acknowledged, but the Iraqi government cannot deal with the political issues it must resolve while violence in Baghdad creates life-or-death situations for citizens every day.

"The objective will be to achieve sufficient security to provide the space and time for the Iraqi government to come to grips with the tough decisions its members must make to enable Iraq to move forward," Petraeus said. "In short, it is not just that there will be additional forces in Baghdad; it is what they will do and how they will do it that is important."

When questioned directly, Petraeus said he would not be able to do his job as

commander of MNF-I without the additional 21,000 troops President Bush has pledged to Iraq. Deploying these additional forces will make it difficult to increase time between deployments for troops who have already been burdened by the war on terror, he said, but plans are under way to sustain increased force levels.

The increase of 92,000 in the overall strength of the Army and Marine Corps, which Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced Jan. 11, will also help alleviate this strain, he said. The Coalition will continue to transition control of Iraqi forces and provinces to Iraqis, and the U.S. advisor effort will be reinforced, Petraeus said. The focus on security in Baghdad will require that U.S. and Iraqi commanders become familiar with the areas they are operating in and work together to establish a permanent presence in areas where violence has been eliminated, he said.

In addition to overcoming security challenges, success in Iraq depends on actions in political and economic areas like governance, the distribution of oil revenues, national reconciliation, improvement in the capacity of Iraq's ministries, the establishment of the rule of law, and economic development, Petraeus said. To bolster progress in these areas, all agencies of the U.S. government need to step in and provide assistance, he emphasized.

"Our military is making an enormous commitment in Iraq; we need the rest of the departments to do likewise, to help the Iraqi government get the country and its citizens working, and to use Iraq's substantial oil revenues for the benefit of all the Iraqi people," he said.

The situation in Iraq is serious, and it will take time for the new strategy to be effective, Petraeus noted. The additional U.S. forces will need time to deploy to the region, become familiar with the situation, and set the conditions for successful security operations, he said.

**See PETRAEUS, Page 7**



# Flight surgeons go hi-flying

**By U.S. Navy  
MC2 Elisandro Diaz  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs**

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – Iraq will celebrate another first for its growing security forces – the planned graduation of 11 Flight Medical Officers from the first Armed Forces Flight Surgeon Primary Course Jan. 31. The medical officers are participating in the program at New Al-Muthanna Air Base.

“The flight surgeon program will increase the capability and battle readiness of the Iraqi Air Force,” said Iraqi Air Force Col. Muntadhar, Director of Aerospace Medicine, Iraqi Ministry of Defence.

The 18-day long training program is a new entry-level course that is taking the doctors through the special aspects of aviation medicine intended to prepare medical officers to assume a key leadership role as aeromedical advisors to the senior leadership of the Iraqi Air Force and to serve as flight surgeons at the Iraqi Air bases,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Rolland Reynolds, Senior Coalition Air Force Training Team Surgeon.

The Flight Surgeon course takes on special relevance as Iraq continues to build up its armed forces to bring stability to Iraq. This new group of flight surgeons

will broaden the armed forces capabilities and enhance its expertise in an area that it did not previously have, said Reynolds.

“It’s a difficult road but a huge honor for me to be part of the Surgeon General’s vision for this program and an honor for me to be part of such an historic effort,” Muntadhar said.

Muntadhar discussed the importance of the medical officers practicing medical evacuation procedures to help and support operations against insurgents and to minimize civilian and Iraqi Security Forces casualties.

According to Reynolds, the goal of the doctors is to learn medical evacuation procedures so they will be able to evacuate, treat and minimize casualties

Flight surgeons will provide medial capabilities in two major areas, according to Muntadhar. First, they will provide medical care to servicemembers wounded or injured as a result of combat operations. They will also be capable of rendering medical treatment to people that have been affected by natural disasters, he said.

The training is a combination of theoretical and practical training modules with some of the training taking place in the classroom, followed by practical training on the equipment and aircraft.

“This will be the foundation of the Flight Surgeon program in Iraq, according to a new flight surgeon and Iraqi Army First Lieutenant who asked not to be identified for security reasons, “we want to distribute flight surgeons to all our (air) bases.”

According to Muntadhar, the medical officers fall into the 24-28 age bracket and come from various backgrounds and branches of the military services who bring different medical specialties to the program. Among the participants six are from the army, four from the air force and one from the navy. Overall, according to Coalition forces information, there are now 900 personnel in the Iraqi Air Force.

There are two aircraft platforms that will become the workhorses for medical evacuations because of their size and landing capability: The turboprop



Photos by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**Iraqi medical officers practice securing litters onboard a Russian-made Mi-17 helicopter during their practical training at the Iraqi Armed Forces Flight Surgeon course Jan. 18.**

Lockheed C-130 and the Mi-17 transport helicopter. According to the lieutenant, both are ideal for medical evacuations because of their carrying capacity. The American-made C-130 can carry up to 68 litters while the Russian-made Mi-17 helicopter can transport up to 12 litters.

In addition to the C-130 and Mi-17, the Iraqi Air Force is awaiting delivery of Huey II helicopters to augment their medical evacuation capability.



**Iraqi medical officers practice loading litters onto an Iraqi C-130 transport aircraft during medical evacuation procedures training for the Iraqi Armed Forces Flight Surgeon program Jan. 18.**

**See SURGEON, Page 5**

# MOI inspectors visit Baghdad police station

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — As part of an on-going effort of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior to ensure police stations operating in the capital are running efficiently and effectively, a group of inspectors visited a Baghdad police station in the International Zone Jan. 24.

The team of 11 MOI inspectors arrived at the Karada Miriam police station in the International Zone as part of the ministry's efforts to continue shaping a police force capable of providing much-needed security for all Iraqis.

"We looked at everything within the station to include weapons, equipment, the building, planning, the investigations people — everything," Iraqi Police Brig. Gen. Ratzak said through an interpreter. Ratzak was the lead MOI inspector during this week's visit. "This (inspection) is also for us to see what the station needs and what supplies they are requesting."

The inspectors arrived at the station without any prior notice and were greeted by the mildly surprised, but ready leadership of the Karada station.

During the visit, the inspectors looked at finances, weapons accountability, detainee conditions, current operations, training and readiness among other things, said Ratzak, who has served as a police officer for 25 years and is a previous police station chief.

The Iraqi Police inspection effort is part of a program to reform Iraq's police stations and leaders as well as improving leadership and operations by conducting self-led compliance inspections, according to U.S. Army Col. James Cashwell, the Coalition Police Assistance Training Team officer-in-charge of the Regional Support Team — Baghdad.

"The end state will be when the ministry has established acceptable performances and standards for Baghdad police leadership and stations," said Cashwell.

The goal of the program is for MOI to stand up an inspection team to validate or correct the performance of the police stations as necessary, he said.

"The Iraqi Prime Minister-directed assessments are modeled after the National Police Transformation "Phase 1 Quick Look" programs that took place at the end of 2006, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Pablo Hernandez, CPATT public affairs officer, who served as a CPATT inspector prior to becoming the organization's spokesman. "Iraq Police Reform, as it is called by CPATT, is scheduled to conduct assessments of Iraqi police stations within 14 districts (in Baghdad.) Thus far, eight stations have been completed within two districts."

During a break in the inspection, the lead inspector, Iraqi Police Brig. Gen. Razak mentioned the progress being made in the transformation of the Iraqi Police institutions.

"Our police force was very good in the past, but now we have three important things — higher salaries, better equipment and good training — that are allowing us to be even better," Razak



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

**An Iraqi police officer goes over financial records with a Ministry of the Interior inspector Jan. 24 at a Baghdad police station.**

said. "We feel that eventually we will be able to demonstrate our importance to this society."

Though some sections of the Iraqi Police force have had some problems over the past year with corruption and infiltration by criminal elements, Razak said he wants the officers to know that the inspections are part of an overall process to improve the force and that he and his inspectors support the officers and the mission.

"In the next few years, I'm sure we can control the insurgency and terrorism activities around this area," he said.

Hernandez agreed.

"When you get down to it, police work is police work and these guys are good cops. Some of these officers like Gen. Ratzak have been doing this work as long as I have" said Hernandez, an Army Reserve Soldier who is a 21-year veteran of a municipal police force in Massachusetts. "Obviously Baghdad has some challenges that can be very unique for this profession, but overall these guys are good cops. Once the transition process is completed and these guys are ready to operate completely independently, this city is going to have a police force they can be proud of."



# Medical officers learn flight medicine

From HI-FLYING, Page 3

The flight surgeon curriculum is, according to Reynolds, very conservative and based on U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army procedures and follows many of the same guidelines and methods used by the two services.

According to Muntadhar, the program has had more than 40 instructors teaching the material and conducting the training of the medical officers.

The curriculum is centered around week-long training modules. The first week of training is focused on aerospace physiology, which focuses on the effects flying has on the human body, including the body's reaction to altitude, acceleration and spatial disorientation. The students also learn about aircrew life support equipment and emergency life support systems on the C-130.

Operational medicine is taught during the second week and teaches basic aircraft aerodynamics and aviation terminology. Training continues with aviation safety programs, mishap prevention and investigation procedures, mass casualty management and aeromedical evacuation procedures. Students also receive training on evacuation equipment, patient loading procedures and the role of the surgeon in



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**Medical Officers and Coalition forces conduct Iraqi Armed Forces Flight Surgeon training aboard an Iraqi C-130 transport aircraft Jan. 18.**

directing these efforts. Students also learn litter configuration on the C-130 and Mi-17.

Students learn clinical aerospace medicine the third week, which provides a general overview of aeromedical standards with lectures on cardiology, internal medicine, orthopedics, dentistry and psychiatry.

The fourth week contains ophthalmology workshops on color vision, slit lamp techniques and visual screening and testing. Week four continues with preventative and occupational medicine topics on food and sanitation facility inspections, water and food analysis, water quality testing and

disease outbreak investigation.

The program culminates with the selection of the course's most "distinguished graduate" to the individual that achieves the highest average score on the series of competency examinations, according to Reynolds.

"We are very thankful to these men (Coalition Air Force Training Transition Team personnel)," Muntadhar said, "but also to their families for their sacrifice in leaving their homes and families to travel across an ocean to teach my men this course with such courage and passion."



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**Iraqi medical officers from the army, air force and navy practice proper litter loading procedures on an Iraqi C-130 Jan. 18.**

*"It's a difficult road but a huge honor for me to be part of the Surgeon General's vision for this program and an honor for me to be part of such an historic effort."*

**Iraqi Air Force Col. Muntadhar,  
Director of Aerospace Medicine, Iraqi Ministry of Defence**

# Legal authorities trained on new military code

**By U.S. Air Force  
Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs**

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Almost two dozen Iraqi military lawyers selected to be military judges and prosecutors met in Baghdad Jan. 20 to attend a three-week course covering the new procedures for courts-martial and disciplinary proceedings that are contained in the new military justice penal code and court-martial procedures that will be enacted by the Iraqi parliament in the near-future.

“We are preparing for military law, which is still waiting to be enacted by the parliament,” said Doctor Ghalib H. Tawfiq, the acting General Counsel of the Ministry of Defence who facilitated and led the conference.

“The current code the military has operated under was put in place by the now dissolved Coalition Provisional Authority in August 2003, and gave Iraqi commanders authority to conduct investigations, hold disciplinary hearings and punish soldiers for any one of 14 enumerated offenses. It also authorized nonjudicial punishment remedies such as U.S. Uniform Code of Military Justice “Article 15” punishments -- usually amounting to fines and extra-duty type penalties.

However, according to Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq’s Staff Judge Advocate, the Iraqi military was not satisfied with that law and the government decided it needed a new code to address the deficiencies of CPA order.

“There is a military law procedure that we hope to introduce very soon. So far, there is (not much) punishment for offenders under the current system,” Ghalib said. “We relied on the CPA, but now it is dissolved. And it did not meet all the legal requirements that we had in the military. This is a new elected government; we need a new law to meet our requirements for the military.”

U.S. Army Col. Mark Ackerman, the MNSTC-I SJA and advisor for the process agreed.

“The old CPA order created a pseudo-



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

**A speaker presents new elements of the soon-to-be approved military justice penal code to military judges and prosecutors who attended a conference on the new laws in Baghdad last week.**

military justice system that resembled our Article 15 procedures. Their court-martials were very unusual in that they would have used the civilian courts and transformed a civilian judge into a military judge and could only try (military members) for civilian offenses,” Ackerman said. “If there was also a military crime committed, that could have been joined with the civilian penal law, but they could not have court-martials for purely military offenses.”

“The Iraqis were very reluctant to use this system. They didn’t actually like it because they lacked a true courts-martial system and their tradition was a reliance on that system,” he continued.

As the Iraqi parliament goes through the full process of vetting and passing the new law, Iraqi legal officials decided that they wanted to be ready to implement the new code as soon as it came out. One of the first steps taken was to appoint military judges and prosecutors who could be educated in the new processes.

“We selected all of these judges from the old army. We know who they are and we know about their backgrounds,” Ghalib said. “All we are trying to do (at this conference) is polish their skills and give

them the new military laws. In the next few months, when we are ready, we will have a complete process ready to carry on.

Additionally, training sessions are being developed for the legal advisors to Iraqi unit commanders, or staff judge advocates as they are known in the U.S. military, who will educate unit commanders and soldiers on the changes and new legal processes.

The beginning of the session was highlighted by remarks from the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Dr. Salam Al-Zubaie, who met with the judges and prosecutors to outline what his personal thoughts were on the importance of the justice system for Iraq.

“Anyone who uses justice is a good man,” he said through an interpreter. “Judges who have all the powers of the law and do not use them for good will lose those powers. Judges are not swayed by anyone; they only are swayed by the rules. Judges must work for peace and one union, not a multi-union.

“I recently received an e-mail from Pope Benedict XXVI talking about peace and how we all need to be one family with no politics and we all need to live together as one under one camp,” said Al-Zubaie. “This message really moved me.”



# Ashura, Islamic holy pilgrimage, ends Jan. 30

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson  
MNSTC-I PAO

The day of Ashura draws millions of pilgrims from throughout Iraqi provinces and from neighboring countries to Karbala, a holy city for Shi'ite Muslims.

Each year, millions of Shi'ite pilgrims march, chant and some flagellate themselves in ritualistic processions through Karbala. Pilgrims not traveling to Karbala often repeat the processions in other Shi'ite centers around the country. The processions mourn the seventh century killing of their revered martyr, Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.

Hussein was murdered in the Battle of Karbala in 680 A.D. on the day of Ashura, meaning 'tenth' in Arabic as it is the 10th day of Muharram, the first month of the Muslim calendar. Shi'ites consider him as their third Imam – after his brother Hassan ibn Ali and his father Ali ibn Abu Talib – and the rightful successor of the Prophet.

Hussein and his followers were killed in Karbala by the forces of Yazid, a ruler of the Umayyad Caliphate based in Damascus at the time. Yazid felt Hussein would challenge his rule as the Caliph of the Islamic world. Yazid offered a truce stipulating Hussein must pledge allegiance to the Caliph and return to Medina. Hussein refused, as he sought to inspire a purer form of the Islamic faith represented by the Islamic community's leadership, and was killed with his family and followers.

The event is considered by many the defining moment of the split between the Sunni and Shi'a branches of Islam. Shi'as believe that Hussein was the true leader of Islam while the Sunni's believe the Caliph was chosen by God to rule. However,



Courtesy photo

**Women mourn the loss of the 3rd Imam Hussein, during a recent Ashura ceremony.**

Hussein is remembered and respected by Muslims of both sects as an honorable and pious leader who deserves the respect afforded to him for not only his lineage, but also his example.

The Ashura pilgrimage has been held annually since the liberation of Iraq from Saddam Hussein, who banned the event for the 30 years of his reign. The pilgrims today still face a number of security challenges, as they are threatened by the actions of insurgents and terrorists. However, many pilgrims participate in spite of the risks. The safety of the pilgrims is a task Iraqi Security Forces take seriously and have developed contingency plans and security procedures to ensure the events are as safe as possible for participants.

This year's Ashura pilgrimage will end Jan. 30.

*(Some of the information used in this article is courtesy of the International Relations Information Network.)*

## Petraeus: Military making enormous committment

From PETRAEUS, Page 2

"The only assurance I can give you is that, if confirmed, I will provide Multi-National Force - Iraq the best leadership and direction I can muster; I will work to ensure unity of effort with the ambassador and our Iraqi and Coalition partners; and I will provide my bosses and you with forthright, professional military advice with respect to the missions given to Multi-National Force - Iraq and the situation on the ground in Iraq," Petraeus said to the committee.

If confirmed, this assignment will be Petraeus' third deployment of one year or longer since the summer of

2001. Petraeus led the 101st Airborne Division in Mosul during the first year of Operation Iraqi Freedom, served as the first commander of Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq from June 2004 to September 2005, and commanded the NATO Training Mission - Iraq from October 2004 through September 2005. He is currently serving as commander of the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he oversees the organizations that educate Army leaders, draft doctrine, craft lessons learned, and help units prepare for deployment.

Petraeus acknowledged that the com-

mand of MNF-I will be a heavy burden, but he said he is ready to take on the position. Not only is he eager to serve again with America's deployed troops, he said, but he feels an obligation to help the Iraqis, who are struggling to lead normal lives while their government forges a way ahead that will be anything but easy.

"Hard is not hopeless, and if confirmed, I pledge to do my utmost to lead our wonderful men and women in uniform and those of our Coalition partners in Iraq as we endeavor to help the Iraqis make the most of the opportunity our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have given to them," he said.

## IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

### Iraqi Police destroys torture house

**FALLUJAH** — Iraqi Police and Coalition forces completed Operation Three Swords in an area south of Fallujah Jan. 26.

The purpose of the operation was to detain members of murder and intimidation cells within the rural area of Zaidon and the villages of Albu Hawa, Fuhaylat and Hasa. The operation was led by the Iraqi Police with support of Coalition advisors.

During the operation, members of the Fallujah Police Department and Coalition forces discovered a torture house and rescued three individuals. Two of the hostages were transported and treated at Camp Fallujah. The third hostage was transported by helicopter to Camp Taqqadum for further treatment. Torture devices were found and confiscated.

Additionally numerous weapons caches were found during the operation. Among the caches, two 14.5mm anti-aircraft guns, high explosive mortar sights, rocket propelled grenade related materials, a sniper rifle with scope and four assault rifles.

Two vehicles were also discovered in which one vehicle was rigged as a car bomb and the other with an anti-aircraft gun mounted on top.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Force – West Public Affairs*

### Weapons cache found

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi policemen from Nahrawan Iraqi Police Station and Coalition forces found a weapons cache Jan. 26 during a joint patrol in east Baghdad.

The cache consisted of 55 80mm mortars, 50 60mm mortars, 15 120mm mortars, two mortar tubes, 60,000 PKC rounds, 50,000 AK-47 rounds, 30 sticks of TNT, 10 pounds of gun powder, multiple charges and fuses, shotgun ammunition, 10 hand grenades, one 14.5mm machine gun, 400 rounds of 14.5mm ammunition, a crush-wire initiator, three rocket propelled grenade launchers, four machine gun spare barrels, one mortar sight, flak vests and military uniforms.

Two local nationals were found in a building near the cache and were detained after testing positive for explosives.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Security Forces Discover IED Factory

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Security Forces recovered a weapons cache during operations with Coalition advisors near Hit, west of Baghdad Jan. 26. The operation targeted a terrorist cell suspected of conducting attacks against Iraqi civilians and security forces in the area.

Iraqi forces discovered a building believed to be used by terrorists as a factory to construct improvised explosive devices. Iraqi forces confiscated two completed IEDs, two 155mm artillery rounds, a rocket, several pounds of explosives and additional components used to construct IEDs.

The building was destroyed to prevent its future use by terrorists in constructing bombs.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*



Photo by Icelandic Maj. Steinar Sveinsson

## Iraq's Future Officers

More than 300 new cadets participated in an induction ceremony at the Iraqi Military Academy Al Rustamiyah recently. The event also formally recognized the beginning of formal air force training at IMAR, as 63 Iraqi Air Force cadets are part of this year's incoming class.



## IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

### Iraqi Army Captures Terrorist Cell Leader

**BAGHDAD** — Soldiers from the 2nd Iraqi Army Division captured the suspected leader of a terrorist bombing cell during operations with Coalition advisors Jan. 26 in Mosul. The suspect is alleged to be responsible for coordinating and participating in multiple mortar, small arms and improvised explosive device attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces.

The cell leader was allegedly involved in an IED attack carried out against an Iraqi Police convoy in Mosul last year. He is also implicated in coordinating and conducting other IED attacks in the region.

An additional suspect was taken into Iraqi custody for questioning.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Army saves family from terrorist threat

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Army forces conducted operations with Coalition advisors Jan. 25 near Taji, in order to save an Iraqi family who was being threatened by terrorists linked to al-Qaida in Iraq.

Iraqi forces were able to evacuate all six family members to the safety of an Iraqi Army compound in Baghdad. One person was taken into Iraqi custody for questioning.

During a separate operation, Iraqi forces searched for two Iraqi Security Forces personnel reportedly abducted by criminal elements. The two ISF personnel were not found.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Police Capture Leader of Terrorist Cell

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Police forces captured the suspected leader of a terrorist bombing cell during operations with Coalition advisors Jan. 25 in northern Babil Province near Haswah.

The cell leader was responsible for coordinating and carrying out improvised explosive device attacks against civilians and security forces in the area.

The cell is suspected of links to al-Qaida in Iraq and facilitating efforts in targeting Iraqi Security and Coalition forces in IED and indirect fire attacks and is believed responsible for several attacks against ISF and CF convoys in Babil Province. The cell is also suspected of murdering Iraqi civilians in sectarian attacks and ambushes.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Army stops illegal checkpoint

**BAGHDAD** — A tip from a local citizen to an Iraqi Army unit enabled them to stop an illegal checkpoint in the western Baghdad neighborhood of Ghazaliyah Jan. 24.

An unidentified Iraqi phoned Iraqi soldiers stating that a number of men had set up an illegal checkpoint in a southern Ghazaliyah neighborhood.

A patrol was dispatched to the area and upon arrival was engaged by AK-47 and pistol fire. The patrol returned fire but was unable to prevent the escape of the terrorists.

The patrol confiscated a black sedan and a motorcycle left behind when the terrorists fled.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### Operation nets 10 terrorists, 4 weapons caches

**BAGHDAD** — Coalition and Iraqi Army soldiers detained 10 suspects and seized four caches in the Al-Doura district as part of Operation Wolverine Feast Jan. 24

The operation began as witnesses reported seeing several men load a mortar tube and ammunition into the trunk of a car. Iraqi soldier and Coalition advisors were alerted and cordoned off the target area.

At the first objective they captured one wanted man with an 82mm mortar system, two AK-47 assault rifles, a 9mm pistol and two hand grenades. A sweep of a second targeted area uncovered six men with 10 120mm mortar rounds.

The third cache found contained a 60mm mortar system and various rocket-propelled grenade launchers and RPG rounds. Three men were detained at this location.

The last cache contained several RPG rockets and accelerators. The ten suspects detained in the operation are being held for further questioning.

The weapons were confiscated and the munitions were destroyed on the scene.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

### ON PATROL

**Iraqi Security Forces practice counter-measure maneuvers at New Al-Muthanna Air Base recently.**